



of any actual award, violates the Anti-Assignment Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3272" and that to make an award directly to the attorney before the Commissioner determines whether the plaintiff owes a pre-existing debt to the United States against which the EAJA fee award could be offset "would jeopardize the ability of the United States to collect such debts, if any exist"); accord Steele-Malocu v. Astrue, 2011 WL 1743457 (S.D. Ohio May 6, 2011)(Black, J.).

For these reasons, plaintiff's motion for attorneys' fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (#24) is **GRANTED**. Plaintiff is awarded the sum of \$1,875.00 as fees under that Act. The award shall be payable to the plaintiff unless, as the Commissioner represents in his memorandum, the Social Security Administration can verify that plaintiff owes no pre-existing debt subject to offset and agrees to make payment directly to plaintiff's attorney.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Date: January 26, 2012

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s/James L. Graham  
James L. Graham  
United States District Judge